

# Ingersoll Normal Class.

## **SABBATH SCHOOL WORK DEFINED.**

More than thirty years ago the late Principal Cunningham said at a meeting of S. S. Teachers in Edinburgh, "That the time seemed to have come when the precise relation of the Sabbath School to the Church ought to be carefully considered and defined." No Church has formally done this as yet. The question has been left to adjust itself very slowly.

The following is submitted for examination :

### **DEFINITIONS.**

"The Sabbath School is that DEPARTMENT of the Church of Christ, in which the word of Christ is taught : for the purpose of bringing souls to Christ and of building up souls in Christ."—*Vincent.*

"The Sabbath SCHOOL IS THE CHURCH of God, assembled to teach and to learn the word of Christ ; by the help of the Holy Spirit ; for the purpose of bringing souls to Christ, and of building up souls in Christ."

Four reasons for preferring the latter definition :

1. The School is a department of the *work of the Church*, but not of the Church. She has division of labour but not of life, or organization.
2. It emphasizes the view that the School form of work has biblical authority, and that God has made provision for it in the Great Commission.—*John XXI, 15, 16, 17 ; Matt. XXVIII, 19, 20.*
3. It lays obligations on old and young to the Church in her school work, and strengthens the importance of adult classes for the study of the word.
4. It embraces the promise of the presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, with the School as well as in the Church ; in her ministrations of word and sacraments.

### **CONCLUSIONS.**

1. The Church and the School are co-ordinate and co-operating departments of work in the kingdom of God. The School performs the work of the Church, and augments the power of the Church.
  2. The responsibility lying on all the members of the Church, to be Scholars, or Teachers in the School. The School was a form of the primitive Church. "The world is saved by the breath of the School."—*Talmud.*
  3. The duty of the whole Church (or congregation) to *legislate*, and provide means for carrying on the work of the School.
  4. The responsibility of every School, through its Superintendent and Teachers, to those who are appointed to office in the Church. They are helpers in the common work.
- Hence the place and purpose of the Sabbath School is the same as the place and purpose of a congregation assembled to have the word of Christ preached, and the sacraments of Christ administered to them, and by the help of the Holy Spirit, to bring souls to Christ, and build up souls in Christ.

INGERSOLL, September 27th, 1878.

*JOHN McEWEN, Teacher.*